

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The sandy ridges and small playas that surround the WAG 5 facilities in the south-central portion of the INEEL may be some of the most archaeologically sensitive areas on the site. For the most part, these sites are undisturbed and subject to little threat from ongoing use of the PBF facilities, demolition of the ARA facilities, and other work projects in the WAG 5 area. Surveys conducted in advance of all proposed ground disturbance and monitoring of known resources also helps to ensure that ongoing environmental cleanup and restoration activities are having no adverse effects on the archaeological sites that are known to exist. Protection does require constant vigilance, though, as well as a willingness to change work processes when necessary to stop impacts to the fragile remnants of human activity and Native American culture that are so common.

WAG 5 is to be commended for their past and continuing efforts to protect cultural resources. The personnel who work at PBF and ARA have been forced to deal with cultural resources and highly sensitive Native American human remains more than any other INEEL facility and they have willingly incorporated the protection of these resources into their work processes. They have also supported efforts to document the historic built environment in advance of major changes (e.g., demolition) to it.

It is recommended that cultural resource issues continue to be fairly high profile within WAG 5. This is critical for maintaining good relations with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes as well as other stakeholders with an interest in cultural resources (Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, local historical and archaeological societies, etc.). Several activities could enhance and perhaps even streamline cultural resource protection within WAG 5.

- Continue yearly monitoring of Native American burial sites with direct involvement of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Review current work control documentation supporting these efforts.
- Continue monitoring of all ground disturbing activities proposed in the vicinity of Native American human burial sites. Review current work control documentation supporting these efforts.
- Consult with Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to locate other sites of sacred/traditional importance within WAG 5 and begin active protection of any resources identified.
- Continue to schedule archive reviews and/or new archaeological surveys in advance of all ground disturbing projects within WAG 5.
- Complete full recording of lava tube cave located within the ARA complex.
- Expand archaeological survey in area surrounding the ARA complex.
- In consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, conduct test excavations and archaeological mitigation at archaeological sites located in close proximity to PBF and ARA facilities to prevent future inadvertent disturbance.

- Conduct archaeological awareness training sessions for all employees at PBF and those conducting environmental restoration activities there and at ARA.
- Begin Historic American Engineering Record documentation of significant buildings at PBF (PER-606, PER-609, PER-612, PER-613, PER-619, PER-620) before decontamination and demolition are initiated.
- As part of the Historic American Engineering Record for PBF, initiate a study of the unique landscape that was designed for the PBF complex.
- As part of the Historic American Engineering Record for PBF, identify and document artifacts associated with the historically significant programs and projects conducted there.

7. REFERENCES CITED

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Appendix A: Cultural Resource Location Map

Appendix A contains a map showing the location of the single site recorded during the EESC cultural resource investigation. The locational information provided in this Appendix is distributed for Official Use Only and may have been removed from some versions of the document. It is exempted from the Freedom of Information Act under Section 9 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (as amended) and under Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Distribution of any cultural resource locational information from this document and particularly from this Appendix must be approved in advance by contacting the INEEL CRM Office, PO Box 1625-2105, Idaho Falls, ID 83415, telephone: (208) 526-0916.